

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application and for indicating that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings filed December 8, 2004. Applicant submits that these drawings are formal.

Rejections of claims 1 and 5

Claims 1 and 5 are provisionally rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 6 of co-pending application No. 11/048,632.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.321, the undersigned encloses herewith a terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 11/048,632, rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

Objections to claims 2-4

Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. As discussed above, the base claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to claims 2-4 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/146001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments